LIBRARY

MINISTRY OF HEALTH LIBRARY

RURAL DISTRICT OF RINGWOOD AND FORDINGBRIDGE.

INTERIM REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH FOR THE YEAR 1940.

TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE
RINGWOOD AND FORDINGBRIDGE RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Gentlemen,

I beg to submit to you my ninth Annual Report of the Ringwood and Fordingbridge Rural District, which is for the year 1940.

In accordance with instructions received from the Minister of Health this Report is submitted to you as an interim Report, and in considerably curtailed form, in view of the need for strict economy in the use of paper and owing to the greatly increased pressure of work in connection with war conditions placed upon my Department.

NATURAL AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS.

Detailed information respecting these is to be found in all my previous Reports up to the year 1939, which also contain many tables bearing upon vital statistics and sociological conditions. An appreciable increase of density of population has occurred during the past two years through influx into the District of Evacuees and Refugees, etc. The activities of the Public Health Service and the County Council Child Welfare Services, etc., have been adequately adapted to meet the new requirements.

PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS.

Medical Officer of Health - Dr.C.Conyers Morrell, D.P.H.,
Chief Sanitary Inspector - R.A. Skelton.
Additional Sanitary Inspector - R.A. Upstone.

Detailed particulars of these officers are given in my previous Reports.

EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS FOR THE YEAR 1940.

Area (in acres) 90.140. Population, Census 1931 - 18,217.
Registrar General's estimate of population for purposes of vital statistics - 20,430. (Comparability factor - 0.79).
Estimated number of inhabited houses (end of year 1940) according to the Rate Books - 6,100.
Rateable value at 1st October, 1940 - £119,467.
Sum represented by a 1d rate 1939/40 - £466. 13. 8d.

Live Births.	Total.	Males.	Females.
Legitimate	271	139	132
Illegitimate	17	6	11

Birth-rate per 1,000 of the estimated population - 14.1

Still Births.	Total.	Males.	Females.
Legitimate	10	7	3
Illegitimate	1	0	1

Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births - 36.7

LIBRARY

RURAL DISTRICT OF RINGWOOD AND FORDINGBRIDGE.

INTERIM REPORT
OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH
FOR THE YEAR 1940.

TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE
RINGWOOD AND FORDINGBRIDGE RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Gentlemen,

I beg to submit to you my ninth Annual Report of the Ringwood and Fordingbridge Rural District, which is for the year 1940.

In accordance with instructions received from the Minister of Health this Report is submitted to you as an Interim Report, and in considerably curtailed form, in view of the need for strict economy in the use of paper and owing to the greatly increased pressure of work in connection with war conditions placed upon my Department.

NATURAL AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS

Detailed information respecting these is to be found in all my previous Reports up to the year 1939, which also contain many tables bearing upon vital statistics and sociological conditions. An appreciable increase of density of population has occurred during the past two years through influx into the District of evacuees and refugees, etc. The activities of the Public Health Service and the County Council Welfare Services, etc., have been adequately adapted to meet the new requirements.

PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS.

Medical Officer of Health - Dr.C.Conyers Morrell, D.P.H.,
Chief Sanitary Inspector - R.A. Skelton.
Additional Sanitary Inspector - R.A. Upstone.

Detailed particulars of these officers are given in my previous Reports.

EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS FOR THE YEAR 1940.

Area (in acres) 90,140. Population, Census 1931 - 18,317.
Registrar General's estimate of population for purposes of vital statistics - 20,430. (Comparability factor - 0.79).
Estimated number of inhabited houses (end of year 1940) according to the Rate Books - 6,100.
Rateable value at 1st October, 1940 - £119,467.
Sum represented by a 1d rate 1939\40 - £466. 13s. 8d.

Live Births.	Total.	Males.	Females.
Legitimate	271	139	132
Illegitimate	17	6	11

Birth-rate per 1,000 of the estimated population - 14.1

Still Births.	Total.	Males.	Females.
Legitimate	10	7	3
Illegitimate	1	0	1

Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births - 36.7

Deaths.	Total.	Males.	Females.
	270	130	140

Death-rate per 1,000 of the estimated population - 13.2

Deaths from puerperal causes.

Puerperal Sepsis - 0
Other Puerperal causes - 1

Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births - 3.3

Death-rate of Infants under one year of age

All infants per 1,000 live births - 45.1
Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births - 45.1
Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births - 0.0

Deaths from Cancer (all ages) - 32

Deaths from Measles (all ages) - 0

Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages) - 1

Deaths from Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age) - 0

Cancer accounted for 11.8 per cent of all deaths. There were during 1940 32 deaths attributed to this cause, of which 10 were males and 22 were females. Ten deaths were attributed to Influenza. Five cases of Suicide were recorded.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES (other than Tuberculosis) during the year 1940

Disease	Total Cases Notified	Cases Admitted to Hospital	Total Deaths
Paratyphoid	1	0	0
Scarlet Fever	8	5	0
Diphtheria	19	19	2
Cerebro-spinal-fever	11	8	2
Poliomyelitis	3	1	2
Erysipelas	3	2	0
Puerperal Pyrexia	3	1	1
Pneumonia	30	10	12
Measles	71	2	0
Whooping-cough	3	0	1

CASES OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES notified in the nine years 1932-1940.

Year	Scarlet Fever	Diph-theria	Puerperal Pyrexia	Enteric & Para-typhoid	Erysip-elas	Estimated Population.
1932	23	6	0	6	5	18,400
1933	27	21	2	0	7	18,390
1934	41	20	3	0	5	18,360
1935	13	7	2	2	4	18,500
1936	9	5	0	0	3	18,640
1937	15	7	1	3	4	18,690
1938	23	0	3	0	1	18,680
1939	31	28	2	1	2	
1940	8	19	3	1	3	20,430

Deaths. Total. 270 Males. 130 Females. 140

Death-rate per 1,000 of the estimated population - 12.2

Deaths from puerperal causes.

Puerperal Sepsis - 0
Other Puerperal causes - 1

Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births - 3.3

Death-rate of Infants under one year of age

All infants per 1,000 live births - 45.1
Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births - 46.1
Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births - 0.0

Deaths from Cancer (all ages) - 32

Deaths from Measles (all ages) - 0

Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages) - 1

Deaths from Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age) - 0

Cancer accounted for 11.8 per cent of all deaths. There were during 1940 32 deaths attributed to this cause, of which 10 were males and 22 were females. Ten deaths were attributed to Influenza. Five cases of Suicide were recorded.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES (other than Tuberculosis) during the year 1940

Disease	Notified	Total Cases Admitted to Hospital	Deaths
Paratyphoid	1	0	0
Scarlet Fever	8	8	0
Diphtheria	19	19	2
Cerebro-spinal-fever	11	8	2
Poliomyelitis	2	1	0
Erysipelas	3	2	0
Puerperal Pyrexia	3	1	1
Pneumonia	30	10	12
Measles	71	0	0
Whooping-cough	3	0	1

CASES OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES notified in the nine years 1932-1940.

Year	Scarlet Fever	Diphtheria	Puerperal Pyrexia	Enteric & Paratyphoid	Erysipelas	Estimated Population.
1932	53	6	0	6	5	18,400
1933	27	21	2	0	7	18,320
1934	41	20	3	0	8	18,260
1935	15	7	2	2	4	18,200
1936	9	3	0	0	3	18,240
1937	16	7	1	3	4	18,290
1938	25	0	2	0	1	18,280
1939	31	28	3	1	3	20,450
1940	8	19	3	1	3	

TUBERCULOSIS. New Cases and Mortality during 1940.

	New Cases.	Deaths.
Respiratory	8	3
Non-respiratory	7	2

Notification is efficient. There is no evidence of excessive incidence of, or mortality from, Tuberculosis in any particular occupation in the area.

WATER SUPPLIES.

Mains of West Hampshire Water Company supply practically the whole of your District with the exception of some part of the area in the extreme north-west. The supply is constant; the water is of moderate hardness, free from plumbo-solvent action, entirely free from metals, and has been consistently of the highest degree of bacterial purity.

Thirty-five samples of well-waters were submitted to analysis during the year.

Provisions have been made to safe-guard water supplies in the event of breakdown of main supply through enemy action.

SANITATION.

Ringwood Sewerage.
The functioning of your Sewage Disposal Works has continued to be satisfactory and efficient.

Refuse Disposal.
This has been efficiently dealt with at the twelve Dumps belonging to your Council.

Fordingbridge.
An extra night-soil collection was instituted in Fordingbridge to meet the requirements arising from the influx of Evacuees.

HOUSING.

A few inspections were made arising out of complaints received, and these were adequately dealt with.

BED BUGS, POLLUTION OF RIVERS AND STREAMS, AND FACTORIES ACT.

No special action has been required.

POLLUTION OF RIVERS AND STREAMS.

No action has been needed.

MEAT AND OTHER FOODS.

There were during 1940 no Slaughter-houses in use in the District. Some unsound meat, bacon and fish was dealt with during the year, including some diseased meat slaughtered in an adjoining District and sent to Butchers at Fordingbridge under the Ministry of Foods allocation scheme.

MILK SUPPLY.

Inspection of Dairies and Cowsheds has been carried out on a reduced scale. All defects found were remedied.

TUBERCULOSIS. New Cases and Mortality during 1940.

	New Cases.	Deaths.
Respiratory	8	3
Non-respiratory	7	2

Notification is efficient. There is no evidence of excessive incidence of, or mortality from, Tuberculosis in any particular occupation in the area.

WATER SUPPLIES.

Mains of West Hampshire Water Company supply practically the whole of your District with the exception of some part of the area in the extreme north-west. The supply is constant; the water is of moderate hardness, free from plumbo-solvent action, entirely free from metals, and has been completely of the highest degree of bacterial purity.

Thirty-five samples of well-waters were submitted to analysis during the year.

Provisions have been made to safe-guard water supplies in the event of breakdown of main supply through enemy action.

SANITATION.

Ringwood Sewerage.

The tunnelling of your Sewage Disposal Works has continued to be satisfactory and efficient.

Refuse Disposal.

This has been efficiently dealt with at the twelve Dumps belonging to your Council.

Verminousness.

An extra night-soil collection was instituted in Fordingbridge to meet the requirements arising from the influx of evacuees.

HOUSING.

A few inspections were made arising out of complaints received, and these were adequately dealt with.

RED RUSS, POLLUTION OF RIVERS AND STREAMS, AND FACTORIES ACT.

No special action has been required.

POLLUTION OF RIVERS AND STREAMS.

No action has been needed.

MEAT AND OTHER FOODS.

There were during 1940 no Slaughter-houses in use in the District. Some unsound meat, bacon and fish was dealt with during the year, including some diseased meat slaughtered in an adjoining District and sent to Butchers at Fordingbridge under the Ministry of Foods allocation scheme.

MILK SUPPLY.

Inspection of Dairies and Cowsheds has been carried out on a reduced scale. All defects found were remedied.

DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION.

Under the Scheme adopted by your Council in 1939 immunisation has continued to be carried out by arrangements with private practitioners. The prophylactic used has been Alum Precipitated Toxoid. Up to the present time approximately 1,200 children have been immunised in your District.

GOVERNMENT EVACUATION SCHEME.

Arrangements made for the billeting of children and others has continued to be satisfactory, and the many problems and difficulties arising therefrom have been dealt with most adequately through the very efficient administration of Mr. W.T. Alway, J.P.,C.C., Chief Billeting Officer.

The "Talgarth" Sick Bay has been conducted in the most admirable manner, as also the two Hostels "Minla" and "Floreat Etona".

The general welfare of evacuee children has been well maintained, and I have been particularly impressed by the marked improvement in their general health and physique consequent upon their transfer from congested urban to salubrious rural environment.

The introduction of Scabies and Impetigo has given cause for some anxiety, but arrangements now made through the courtesy of Mr. O.J.A. Carter, County Public Assistance Officer, for the future effective disinfection of bedding and clothing by steam disinfection at the Lyndhurst Road P.A. Institution will undoubtedly assist very materially in bringing about adequate control of these infections.

SCHOOL AND CHILD WELFARE.

The Medical Inspection of children in the Schools is carried out by the staff of the County Medical Officer, as also the conduct of Child Welfare, Tuberculosis, Dental and Ante-Natal Clinics. The general health of children throughout your District has continued to be excellent.

At practically all schools measures have now been taken to safeguard children in classrooms against risk from flying glass splinters caused by bomb-blast by treatment of window-panes with adhesive netting, and at most schools further protection against blast and bomb splinters has been provided by the erection of brick walling. Experience has shown that the netting applied to windows is reasonably effective as compared with the earlier method of the application of strips of paper which is wholly useless. Much greater care, however, than has been the case is required to ensure that the netting remains fully adherent to the window-panes and surrounding woodwork, in view of the fact that varying weather conditions tend to cause the neeting to fall away from the panes and woodwork and so invalidate its purpose. Narrow strips of wood lathing fitted around the panes might best ensure against this. In any case to ensure constant protection of the children daily inspection should be made of all windows, and defects immediately remedied.

Sanitation and water supplies have been satisfactory.

FACTORIES ACT, 1937.

Inspections have been carried out on a reduced scale. All sanitary defects requiring attention have been brought to the notice of occupiers, and have been remedied without difficulty.

DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION.

Under the Scheme adopted by your Council in 1939 immunisation has continued to be carried out by arrangements with private practitioners. The prophylactic used has been Alum Precipitated Toxoid. Up to the present time approximately 1,800 children have been immunised in your District.

GOVERNMENT EVACUATION SCHEME.

Arrangements made for the billeting of children and others has continued to be satisfactory, and the many problems and difficulties arising therefrom have been dealt with most adequately through the very efficient administration of Mr. W.T. Alway, L.P.T.C., Chief Billeting Officer.

The "Talgarth" Block Bay has been conducted in the most admirable manner, as also the two Hostels "Minla" and "Florent Edona".

The general welfare of evacuee children has been well maintained, and I have been particularly impressed by the marked improvement in their general health and physique consequent upon their transfer from congested urban to salubrious rural environment.

The introduction of Scabies and Impetigo has given cause for some anxiety, but arrangements now made through the courtesy of Mr. O.J.A. Carter, County Public Assistance Officer, for the future effective disinfection of bedding and clothing by steam disinfection at the Lyndhurst Road P.A. Institution will undoubtedly assist very materially in bringing about adequate control of these infections.

SCHOOL AND CHILD WELFARE.

The Medical Inspection of children in the Schools is carried out by the staff of the County Medical Officer, as also the conduct of Child Welfare, Tuberculosis, Dental and Ante-Natal Clinics. The general health of children throughout your District has continued to be excellent.

At practically all schools measures have now been taken to safeguard children in classrooms against risk from flying glass splinters caused by bomb-blast by treatment of window-panes with adhesive netting, and at most schools further protection against blast and bomb splinters has been provided by the erection of brick walling. Experience has shown that the netting applied to windows is reasonably effective as compared with the earlier method of the application of strips of paper which is wholly useless. Much greater care, however, than has been the case is required to ensure that the netting remains fully adherent to the window-panes and surrounding woodwork, in view of the fact that varying weather conditions tend to cause the netting to fall away from the panes and woodwork and so invalidate its purpose. Narrow strips of wood lathing fitted around the panes might best ensure against this. In any case to ensure constant protection of the children daily inspection should be made of all windows, and defects immediately remedied.

Sanitation and water supplies have been satisfactory.

FACTORIES ACT, 1937.

Inspections have been carried out on a reduced scale. All sanitary defects requiring attention have been brought to the notice of occupiers, and have been remedied without difficulty.

GENERAL.

During 1940 additional work and obligations placed upon the Public Health Department due to War contingencies and influx of population has been very considerable, and to meet this it has been found expedient to curtail in some directions and to expand in others the activities of the Department. In spite of these difficulties I am able to say that satisfactory progress in all matters affecting the good sanitation and welfare of your District has been well maintained.

Allow me again to express to your Council and its Officers my appreciation of help and consideration extended to me.

I am, Gentlemen,
Your obedient Servant,

C. CONYERS MORRELL,

Medical Officer of Health.

25th July, 1941.

GENERAL.

During 1940 additional work and obligations placed upon the Public Health Department due to War contingencies and influx of population has been very considerable, and to meet this it has been found expedient to curtail in some directions and to expand in others the activities of the Department. In spite of these difficulties I am able to say that satisfactory progress in all matters affecting the good sanitation and welfare of your District has been well maintained.

Allow me again to express to your Council and its Officers my appreciation of help and consideration extended to me.

I am, Gentlemen,
Your obedient Servant,

G. COWPERS MORRELL,
Medical Officer of Health.

25th July, 1941.

Water Supplies.

Tests of the four separate water supply systems supply practically the whole of your district with the exception of some part of the area in the extreme north-west. Analysis of the water is carried out monthly at the Government Chemical Laboratory and at the Counties Public Health Laboratories, and throughout the year these analyses have been consistently satisfactory.

During the year a main consist of the West Norfolk Water Company has been extended from the town of Downham to Outwell

During 1939 the systematic inspection of private well-water supplies investigated in 1937 was continued, and during the year 72 samples of well waters were submitted to analysis. From the results of the tests the Medical Officer of Health reported unsatisfactory co-operation with Military authorities, particularly in respect to sanitary conditions relative to military billeting. To meet this, a considerable number of special inspections of well-water supplies of houses and premises allocated for billeting was carried out. With the result that a number of dwellings hitherto dependent upon wells found to be polluted were connected to the mains of the West Norfolk Water Company.

Sewerage.

Sewage Disposal.

The functioning of your Sewage Disposal works at Downham has continued to be satisfactory and efficient. The two Sewerage Pumping Stations and the Outfall works have functioned very satisfactorily.

Contagious Diseases.

The town and environs of Downham Market without much security, as usually in the efficient sanitation of your District to which I have called frequent attention in my previous Reports, and one which I trust will meet with your most urgent consideration as soon as circumstances may permit.

Refuse Disposal.

This has been efficiently dealt with at the twelve dumps belonging to your Council.

Housing.

Attention was drawn in my last Report, that for the year 1938, as the special housing survey inaugurated in that year by H.M. Government, was still being dealt with, and a survey was given of the scheme, that building by-laws therein, and a summary was given of the results and of action taken in connection therewith. This work has been continued during the year 1939, with the satisfactory result that sanitary improvements are being brought about in the housing conditions of the rural working class population. I can testify to the co-operation for his untiring work in pressing forward improvements in the conditions of housing and raising of the general standard of domestic comfort for the rural workers of your district. I regard this as of substantial importance among public work in preparation for securing and ensuring health and happiness in the future post-war period, when it is likely that a considerable trek of population to the rural areas will occur, thus attracting the many evils and alleviating many of the economic difficulties which have accompanied the natural drift tendency in recent times to over urbanisation. It is in my opinion essential and imperative that these potentialities continuously be borne in mind so as

considerations affecting future housing and planning in rural areas.

BED BUGS.

No complaints have been received during the year, and no disinfestation has been required.

POLLUTION OF RIVERS AND STREAMS.

No action has been needed for the prevention of fouling of rivers and streams.

FACTORIES ACT, 1937.

The inspection of Factories and Workshops in the District has been carried out on a reduced scale. All sanitary defects requiring attention have been brought to the notice of occupiers, and have been remedied without difficulty.

MILK SUPPLY.

Inspection of Dairies and Cowsheds has been carried out on a reduced scale. All defects found have been remedied.

MEAT AND OTHER FOODS.

There are no Slaughter-houses at present in use in the District. Some defective meat, bacon, fish, and butter has been found. Certificates stating that the articles were unfit for human food have been given to the retailers and they have been able to get free replacements from the wholesalers.

DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION.

During the year your Council agreed to the adoption of a Diphtheria Immunisation Scheme, and measures were taken by me to put the scheme into immediate effect. Immunisations of children are carried out by arrangement with private practitioners. The number of children up to 14 years of age immunised during the five months August to December was 196. Unfortunately insufficient returns were made of the ages of children immunised to enable them to be separated into age groups. Rectification of this defect has been made for statistical purposes in the future. The prophylactic used has been Alum Precipitated Toxoid.

SCHOOLS AND CHILD WELFARE.

The Medical Inspection of children in the Schools is carried out by the Staff of the County Medical Officer, as also the conduct of Child Welfare, Tuberculosis, Dental, and Ante-natal Clinics. Particulars of the days and times on which these Clinics are held in your District will be found in my Report for 1938. Special attention has been given to nutrition of infants and school children, and to tonsillar and orthopaedic defects.

considerations affecting future housing and planning in rural areas.

WELL RUNS.

No complaints have been received during the year, and no disinfestation has been required.

FORMATION OF RIVERS AND STREAMS.

No action has been needed for the prevention of fouling of rivers and streams.

FACTORIES ACT, 1937.

The inspection of factories and workshops in this District has been carried out on a reduced scale. All sanitary defects requiring attention have been brought to the notice of occupiers, and have been remedied without difficulty.

MILK SUPPLY.

Inspection of Dairies and Cowsheds has been carried out on a reduced scale. All defects found have been remedied.

MEAT AND OTHER FOODS.

There are no Slaughter-houses at present in use in the District. Some defective meat, bacon, fish, and butter has been found. Certificates stating that the articles were unfit for human food have been given to the retailers and they have been able to get free replacements from the wholesalers.

IMMUNISATION.

During the year your Council agreed to the adoption of a Diphtheria Immunisation Scheme, and measures were taken by me to put the scheme into immediate effect. Immunisations of children are carried out by arrangement with private practitioners. The number of children up to 14 years of age immunised during the five months August to December was 190. Unfortunately insufficient returns were made of the ages of children immunised to enable them to be separated into age groups. Rectification of this defect has been made for statistical purposes in the future. The prophylactic used has been Alum Precipitated Toxoid.

NURSING AND CHILD WELFARE.

The Medical Inspection of children in the Schools is carried out by the Staff of the County Medical Officer, as also the Centres of Child Welfare, Tuberculosis, Dental, and Ante-natal Clinics. Particulars of the days and times on which these Clinics are held in your District will be found in my Report for 1938. Special attention has been given to Nutrition of Infants and School children, and to Tonsilar and Adenoperoidia defects.

GOVERNMENT EVACUATION SCHEME.

Arrangements made for the billeting of children and others under the Government Evacuation Scheme have been satisfactory, and all children arriving from evacuating areas were, under arrangements made by me, medically examined on arrival, and satisfactory arrangements were made for the immediate treatment of urgent defects found. A "SickBay" was established and equipped at "Talgarth", Northfield Road, Ringwood, for the treatment of minor non-infectious ailments among evacuee children, and arrangements were made in conjunction with the County Medical Officer for hospitalisation of cases of minor infectious diseases.

The general health of evacuee children has been well maintained, and recent report made by the County Medical Officer upon the results of medical inspections carried out in the schools and clinics has shown that material improvement has occurred in the general health and physique of the children evacuated from cities in the vulnerable areas to the healthful rural environment of your District; an impressive indication of the desirability for encouraging and legislating for a policy for post-war rehabilitation of the countryside, in which environment alone, as recent American researches have shown, a virile population is possible.

GENERAL.

Upon the outbreak of War considerable and continued attention was given by me to many matters involving the safe-guarding of the public health, such as the sanitation of military billets, provisions for the health of evacuee children, the safe-guarding of water supplies, civil defence, etc., and several meetings took place between myself and responsible officers concerned. I wish especially to thank Mr.W.A. Skelton, your Chief Sanitary Inspector, for his most valuable co-operation and technical advice in all these matters. It is pleasing to report that, apart from a limited outbreak of Diphtheria which occurred in the town of Ringwood during the months of June and July, and which I am satisfied was in no way attributable to changed population conditions but to a school carrier, the general health of the population has been entirely satisfactory.

Allow me again to express to your Council and its Officers my appreciation of help and consideration extended to me.

I am, Gentlemen,
Your obedient Servant,

C. CONYERS MORRELL,
Medical Officer of Health.

28th October, 1940.

CONSIGNMENT EVACUATION SCHEME.

Arrangements made for the billeting of children and others under the Government Evacuation Scheme have been satisfactory, and all children arriving from evacuating areas were, under arrangements made by me, medically examined on arrival, and satisfactory arrangements were made for the immediate treatment of urgent defects found. A "Holiday" was established and equipped at "Malvern", Northfield Road, Kingswood, for the treatment of minor non-infectious ailments among evacuee children, and arrangements were made in conjunction with the County Medical Officer for hospitalisation of cases of minor infectious diseases.

The general health of evacuee children has been well maintained, and recent report made by the County Medical Officer upon the results of medical inspections carried out in the schools and clinics has shown that material improvement has occurred in the general health and physique of the children evacuated from cities in the vulnerable areas to the healthful rural environment of your District; an impressive illustration of the desirability for evacuating and legislating for a policy for post-war rehabilitation of the countryside, in which environment alone, as recent American researches have shown, a virile population is possible.

GENERAL.

Upon the outbreak of War considerable and continued attention was given by me to many matters involving the safe-guarding of the public health, such as the recruitment of military billets, preparations for the health of evacuee children, the safe-guarding of water supplies, civil defence, etc., and several meetings took place between myself and responsible officers concerned. I was especially to thank Mr. C. Shelton, your Chief Sanitary Inspector, for his most valuable co-operation and technical advice in all these matters. It is pleasing to report that, apart from a limited outbreak of diphtheria which occurred in the town of Kingswood during the months of June and July, and which I am satisfied was in no way attributable to changed population conditions but to a school carrier, the general health of the population has been entirely satisfactory.

Allow me again to express to your Council and the Officers my appreciation of help and consideration extended to me.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

C. CONYERS MORGAN,

Medical Officer of Health.

26th October, 1940.